

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LIMA

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCLR, TPHY, EC, PE

SUBT: REQUEST FOR CLEARANCE FOR U. OF HAWAII VESSEL TO
CONDUCT EL NINO RESEARCH IN PERUVIAN-CLAIMED WATERS

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: PRELIMINARY STUDIES BY U.S. SCIENTISTS
INDICATE SIGNIFICANT POSSIBILITY THAT ANOTEHR EL NINO
EVENT MAY RPT MAY OCCUR EARLY 1975, DESPITE SHORT INTERVAL
SINCE LAST EL NINO. IF THIS EVENT OCCURS, UNIQUE OPPORTUN-
ITY WILL BE AVAILABLE OBSERVE ONSET OF EL NINO AND OBSERVE
EFFECTS THIS ONSET ON BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTIVITY OF REGION
U.S. SCIENTISTS ARE NOW DEVELOPING CONTINGENCY PLANS
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WHICH WOULD RESCHEDULE CRUISE PLAN FOR EITHER R/V KANA

KEOKI OR R/V MOANA WAVE (BOTH FROM U. OF HAWAII) TO OBSERVE ONSET OF EL NINO DURING PERIOD JANUARY-APRIL 1975, IF FURTHER ANALYSIS OF ONGOING RESEARCH INDICATES LIKELIHOOD OF NEW EL NINO IS VERY HIGH. IF ONE OF THESE VESSELS IS SENT TO REGION, CLEARANCES WILL BE REQUIRED FROM GOP BUT ADVANCE NOTICE OF CRUISE WILL BE MINIMAL. THUS EMBASSY REQUESTED APPROACH GOP TO OBTAIN INFORMAL ASSURANCES SUCH RESEARCH WOULD BE PERMITTED. AT SAME TIME EMBASSY SHOULD AVOID UNDULY ALARMING GOP RE POSSIBLE OCCURENCE NEW EL NINO. COPY OF U. HAWAII CLEARANCE REQUEST FOR ECUADOR HAS BEEN SENT GOE EMBASSY WASHINGTON WITH INFO COPIES TO AMEMBASSY LIMA AND AMEMBASSY QUITO. END SUMMARY

2. RECENT DATA COLLECTED BY SOME U.S. SCIENTISTS APPEARS INDICATE ANOTHER EL NINO LIKELY OCCUR EARLY 1975, BUT OTHER SCIENTISTS CLAIM IT TOO EARLY MAKE SUCH PREDICTION. SOME SCIENTISTS CLAIM BY MID-DECEMBER SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE WILL HAVE BEEN COLLECTED TO PREDICE WHETHER AN EL NINO WILL OCCUR. OTHER SCIENTISTS BELIEVE SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR SUCH PREDUCTION UNTIL MID-JANUARY.

3. U.S. SCIENTISTS, UNDER DIRECTION DR. KLAUS WYRTKI, AGREED REVIEW ON 15 DEC ALL RESULTS STUDIES COMPLETED TO THAT DATE. IF REVIEW INDICATES LIKELIHOOD EL NINO OCCURRENCE VERY HIGH, DECISION WILL BE MADE SEND ONE U. HAWAII RESEARCH VESSEL TO OBSERVE ONSET OF EL NINO. IF REVIEW INCONCLUSIVE, SECOND REVIEW WILL BE HELD 15 JAN. IF THAT REVIEW INDICATES LIKELIHOOD EL NINO HIGH, DECISION WILL BE MADE SEND VESSEL. IF EVIDENCE AT THAT TIME STILL INCONCLUSIVE, BOTH VESSELS WILL CONTINUE EARLIER PLANNED CRUISES IN N. PACIFIC.

4. IF EL NINO DOES OCCUR, U.S. SCIENTISTS BELIEVE ONSET WILL BE READILY OBSERVABLE AT SOME TIME DURING PERIOD MID-JANUARY TO MID-APRIL 1975 IN REGION BETWEEN 2 DEGREE N AND 15 DEGREE S LATITUDE AND BETWEEN THE COAST AND 98 DEG W LONGITUDE, BUT EXACT DATES OF ONSET CANNOT BE PREDICTED. THUS, IF VESSEL SENT TO AREA, U. HAWAII WOULD LIKE HAVE SOME ASSURANCE FROM GOP THAT VESSEL WILL BE PERMITTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONDUCT RESEARCH PROGRAM ON FAIRLY OPEN-ENDED BASIS AT SOME TIME DURING THAT TIME PERIOD. ABOVE REFS TO GENERIC TERM QUOTE VESSEL UNQUOTE REFLECT CURRENT INDECISION AS TO WHETHER R/V KANA KEOKI OR R/V MOANA WAVE WILL BE USED. SELECTION OF VESSEL WILL DEPEND ON AVAILABILITY OF EACH.

5. IF VESSEL SENT, PRIMARY PURPOSE WILL BE OBTAIN GENERAL

DESCRIPTION PHYSICAL OCEANOGRAPHY REGION DURING ONSET EL NIN AND IN PARTICULAR DETERMINE ORIGIN OF WARM WATER WHICH APPARENTLY ENTERS REGION AT OCEAN SURFACE DURING EL NINOS. DATA COLLECTION WILL CONCENTRATE ON TEMPERATURE, SALINITY, OXYGEN, NUTRIENTS AND BASIC METEOROLOGICAL PARAMETERS.

6. TENTATIVE SCHEDULE CALLS FOR VESSEL DEPART PANAMA FOR

REGION IN MID-JAN; MAKE FOUR BRIEF PORT CALLS IN CALLAO APPROXIMATELY ON FOLLOWING DATES: 20 FEB, 5 MAR, 10 APR, 18 APR; AND ARRIVE HONOLULU ABOUT END APRIL. SPACE WILL BE AVAILABLE ABOARD VESSEL FOR TWO SCIENTISTS FROM REGION

PARTICIPATE IN THIS CRUISE. SINCE CRUISE WILL BE CONDUCTED OFF COASTS ECUADOR AND PERU, PREFERENCE WILL BE GIVEN TO ONE SCIENTIST FROM EACH OF THESE COUNTRIES. IF ECUADOR AND PERU NOT ABLE PAY TRAVEL FOR THESE SCIENTISTS, U. HAWAII WILL PAY FOR THEM TO TRAVEL TO PANAMA TO JOIN SHIP BEFORE IT DEPARTS FOR REGION. IT IS POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL SPACE WILL BECOME AVAILABLE AND IF SO GOP WILL BE NOTIFIED.

7. COPIES ALL PROCESSED DATA FROM THIS CRUISE WILL BE PROVIDED TO GOP OR ITS DESIGNATED AGENT WITHIN ONE YEAR OF RETURN OF VESSEL TO HONOLULU. COPIES RAW DATA WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST OF GOP WITHIN SIX MONTHS VESSEL'S RETURN, BUT EMBASSY SHOULD DISCOURAGE SUCH REQUEST, SINCE RAW DATA EXTREMELY LIMITED UTILITY AND SINCE PROVIDING COPIES RAW DATA WOULD ALSO PROLONG PROCESSING OF DATA.

8. U.S. SCIENTISTS PLAN DISCUSS THIS PROGRAM AT IOC/FAO/ LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WMO EL NINO WORKSHOP IN GUAYAQUIL 8-12 DEC IN WHICH EXTENSIVE PARTICIPATION BY L.A. SCIENTISTS EXPECTED. U.S. SCIENTISTS HOPE INTER ALIA EXPLORE WITH THEIR L.A. COLLEAGUES POSSIBILITY OF L.A. SCIENTISTS MOUNTING BIOLOGICAL MONITORING PROGRAM IN EL NINO AREA AS COUNTERPART TO U. HAWAII PHYSICAL OCEANOGRAPHY PROGRAM.

9. SOME L.A. SCIENTISTS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN RECENT INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS AT WHICH POSSIBILITY NEW EL NINO HAS BEEN DISCUSSED. OTHERS MAY HAVE ACQUIRED THIS INFORMATION DIRECTLY FROM U.S. COLLEAGUES. HOWEVER, THIS MESSAGE MAY BE FIRST RPT FIRST INDICATION GOP AND OTHER HOST GOVTS HAVE RECEIVED THAT AN UNEXPECTED RECURRENCE OF EL NINO POSSIBLE. GIVEN ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS OF SECOND EL NINO FOLLOWING SO CLOSELY ON HEELS 1972 EVENT, WE DO

NOT WANT WAIT REQUEST CLEARANCE UNTIL FINAL DECISION HAS BEEN MADE SEND VESSEL TO AREA. THEREFORE, EMBASSY LIMA REQUESTED INFORM GOP OF SITUATION AS DESCRIBED ABOVE AND REQUEST GOP FOR ASSURANCES CLEARANCES CAN BE OBTAINED IF DECISION MADE IN DEC OR JAN TO SEND VESSEL.

10. IN APPROACHING GOP EMBASSY SHOULD EMPHASIZE SERIOUS QUESTIONS EXIST RE RELIABILITY PRESENT INFORMATION AND CRUISE PLANS AT PRESENT VERY MUCH CONDITIONAL. EMBASSY SHOULD POINT OUT PREDICTION OF NEW EL NINO BY METHODS PRESENTLY USED BY U.S. SCIENTISTS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS "BEST GUESS," RATHER THAN RELIABLE FORECAST. IF NECESSARY DEPT CAN PROVIDE BASIC OPERATING DATA FOR BOTH VESSELS, AS WELL AS TENTATIVE TRACK CHARTS AND SCHEDULES. HOWEVER,

SUCH INFORMATION WOULD MOST LIKELY BE CHANGED REPEATEDLY PRIOR TO START OF CRUISE AND DEPT WOULD PREFER AVOID BECOMING INVOLVED IN CONTINUOUS MESSAGE TRAFFIC TRANSMITTING MINOR CHANGES CRUISE ARRANGEMENTS.

11. FOR QUITO: REQUEST POST CHECK WITH GOE ASSURE THAT CLEARANCE REQUEST HAS BEEN RECEIVED AND BEING PROCESSED. SINCE REQUEST ITSELF DOES NOT CLEARLY DESCRIBE EITHER CONDITIONAL NATURE OF CRUISE PREDICTIONS OF NEW EL NINO, PORT MAY WISH NOTE THESE POINTS IN DISCUSSION WITH GOE.

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12. FOR ALL OTHER POSTS: GIVEN ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE POSSIBLE RECURRENCE EL NINO, DEPT CONSIDERS IT IMPORTANT HOST GOVTS BE INFORMED ABOVE SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES. IF YOU CONCUR, PROCEED INFORM HOST GOVT, PREFERABLY ON LOW-KEY BASIS, AGAIN EMPHASIZING TENTATIVE NATURE PRESENT ANALYSIS AND AVOIDING ALARMISM. IF HOST GOVTS EXPRESS DESIRE EITHER OBTAIN MORE INFO OR PARTICIPATE DIRECTLY IN SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES, DEPT WILL BE HAPPY ARRANGE PROVIDE THEM WITH (1) COPIES RESULTS OF GUAYAQUIL EL NINO WORKSHOP; (2) INFO ON U.S. EL NINO PROGRAM AS IT DEVELOPS; AND (3) INFO ON HOW TO CONTACT SCIENTISTS INVOLVED IN U.S. PROGRAM.

13. FOR SANTIAGO: FYI: CHILEAN SCIENTISTS HAVE INDICATED TO CHAIRMAN STEERING COMMITTEE FOR EL NINO WORKSHOP THEY WILL NOT PARTICIPATE THIS WORKSHOP BECAUSE ONE SCIENTIST FROM USSR WILL BE TAKING PART. POST MAY THEREFORE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH GOC WISH DOWNPLAY SIGNIFICANCE WORKSHOP TO AVOID CREATING POLITICAL PROBLEM FOR GOC. ALSO, ALTHO U.S. SCIENTISTS WOULD LIKE HAVE CHILEAN SCIENTISTS PARTICIPATE IN WORKSHOP, WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE IS ALREADY SO LARGE THAT PARTICIPATION BY LARGE GROUP CHILEANS WOULD CREATE SERIOUS ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS. INGERSOLL

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